

HONOLULU, HAWAII TERRITORY, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1908.

OPPOSE POSTAL SAVINGS BANK AND PARCELS POST

Merchants' Association Consider Two Postoffice Proposals and Reject Them--Want Mili- tary Supplies to Be Purchased Here.

Many interesting matters were before the Merchants' Association at its last meeting, among them the question of local supplies for Fort Shafter and other Federal institutions here. It was found that, under the present regulations, such supplies must be obtained from the Quartermaster's department at San Francisco. The Merchants' Association has petitioned the Department to give the Honolulu merchants a chance at such business.

The Association took ground, after considering a letter from Postmaster Pratt, against the Postal Savings bank and Parcels Post systems. The following correspondence tells why:

Postmaster Pratt's Letter.
Honolulu Postoffice.
Office of the Postmaster.
Honolulu, Island of Oahu, Hawaii,
August 7, 1908.

Honorable Geo. W. Smith, President,
Merchants' Association, Honolulu,
T. H.

Sir: I have the honor to hand you herewith a statement of the business transacted at the Honolulu Postoffice for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1908, as shown in accompanying schedules and exhibits:

A—Statement showing the receipts and disbursements, by quarters, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 1905, 1906, 1907 and 1908.

B—Statement of money order business, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 1906, 1907 and 1908.

C—Statement showing number of parcels post packages received from and dispatched to foreign countries, and amount of customs duties collected by this office, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 1905, 1906, 1907 and 1908.

D—Statement of registry business for the fiscal years ending June 30, 1905, 1906, 1907 and 1908.

E—Statement showing amount of mails received and dispatched, for fiscal years ending June 30, 1907 and 1908.

F—Mail transportation service, for fiscal years ending June 30, 1906, 1907 and 1908.

G—Statement of business transacted in the dead letter bureau for fiscal year ending June 30, 1908.

H—List of postoffices and names of postmasters in the Territory of Hawaii on June 30, 1908.

Recapitulating.

Exhibit A. Receipts and Disbursements.—A very considerable increase will be noted in the receipts from the sales of stamps and stamped paper, postage collected on second-class matter (newspapers), during 1908 over former years, the revenue from these sources being as follows: 1905, \$60,876.02; 1906, \$66,257.63; 1907, \$74,964.63; 1908, \$75,807.66.

Our receipts from box rents show a falling off of approximately \$2000 during 1908, over former years, owing to reduced rent rates adopted by the department April 1, 1907, which reduction, however, effects a saving to the box-holders.

In the matter of disbursements, our expenditures for clerk hire, free delivery services, office rent and miscellaneous expenses show an increase, due principally to the recent Act of Congress (March 2, 1907) granting increased salaries for postoffice clerks, and for rental of registry and money-order rooms in the new McCandless building. The total amount of expenditures were as follows: 1905, \$47,674.95; 1906, \$50,418.82; 1907, \$50,914.70; 1908, \$55,965.02.

Exhibit B. Money-Order Business.—This office issued domestic money orders in 1906 numbering 21,479, amounting to \$401,307.65; 1907, numbering 21,408, amounting to \$383,880.85; 1908, numbering 23,493, amounting to \$496,238.57.

International orders were issued as follows: 1906, 6056 orders, amounting to \$139,275.25; 1907, 7517 orders, amounting to \$179,376.36; 1908, 8923 orders, amounting to \$226,075.10.

This office, as the depository of sur-

plus money-order funds for all other postoffices in Hawaii, received during 1906 the sum of \$2,077,144.96; during 1907, the sum of \$2,180,176.31; during 1908, the sum of \$2,528,423.25.

Money orders paid and repaid at this office as follows: 1906, 56,250 orders, amounting to \$1,576,331.25; 1907, 52,849 orders, amounting to \$1,518,044.74; 1908, 57,052 orders, amounting to \$1,457,927.71.

Money order funds transmitted to the Treasury of the United States, at Chicago, Illinois, as follows: 1906, \$1,044,349.70; 1907, \$1,234,550.55; 1908, \$1,678,100.

Money orders issued in Hawaii (all offices) and certified by this office, as follows:

Country.	Number.	Amount.
Australia	261	\$ 4,322.74
New Zealand	75	1,320.34
Hongkong	14	188.92
Japan	22,135	604,085.57
Total	22,485	\$609,827.57

Country.	Number.	Amount.
Australia	281	\$ 6,648.23
New Zealand	117	4,076.38
Hongkong	33	942.68
Japan	29,839	913,865.12
Total	30,270	\$925,532.46

Country.	Number.	Amount.
Australia	278	\$ 6,148.35
New Zealand	108	3,247.95
Hongkong	31	827.25
Japan	39,080	1,157,950.42
Total	40,405	\$1,168,137.97

Money orders payable in Hawaii, certified to this office, from Japan: 1906—Number, 412; amount, \$14,400.70. 1907—Number, 852; amount, \$31,835.78. 1908—Number, 359; amount, \$13,900.46.

The difference in the amounts of the money order funds certified to, and payable in Japan, and the amount certified from Japan payable in Hawaii, shows an excess in favor of Japan as follows: 1906, \$589,684.87; 1907, \$882,029.34; 1908, \$1,144,049.96.

It is believed a very considerable portion of this large amount of money is sent to Japan for deposit in the postal savings banks of that country, with which system the Japanese are familiar. A very great benefit would result in the adoption of the postal savings banks system for the United States as proposed by the Honorable Postmaster General, in a bill now before Congress, that the exceedingly large amounts now going out of the Territory each year, amounting in 1908 to \$1,144,049.96, may be retained and kept in circulation locally.

Exhibit C. Parcels Post Business.—This statement shows particularly the number of parcels post packages dispatched and received, and the amount of customs duties collected by this office, viz:

Year.	Dis- patched.	Received.	Duty Col- lected.
1904	38	42	\$ 860.81
1905	523	1,477	1,569.32
1906	989	2,948	2,478.73
1907	1,171	3,790	2,811.26
1908	1,861	5,206	3,558.50

The exceedingly large increase in the number of parcels post packages received at and sent from this office during the past two years indicates that the difference in the postage rate on merchandise at the parcels post rate of twelve cents per pound, as against the domestic rate of one cent per ounce, induces the purchasing in large quantities of merchandise in foreign countries, which, the rates of postage being reduced and the limit of weight increased for local mails, might readily be diverted to the channels of domestic trade.

Exhibit D. Registry Business.—This statement shows that the business of the registry division has steadily increased, as follows: In 1905 there were handled 147,982 registered articles; 1906, 167,173 registered articles; 1907, 185,955 registered articles; 1908, 198,940 registered articles.

The moving of the Registry and Money Order Divisions to the ground floor in the new McCandless building affords much better accommodations to the public, and facilitates greatly the office work and may account in part for the increase of business in these divisions.

Exhibit E. Mails Received and Dispatched.—This statement of the number of letters and prints dispatched, above a total number of six millions, two hundred twenty-three thousand, four hundred and sixty-five (6,223,465) letters dispatched during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1908, an increase of one million, one hundred sixty-three thousand, four hundred and ninety-three (1,163,493) over 1907.

In the matter of prints, (newspapers, circulars, etc.) this office dispatched in 1907, 3,776,027 and in 1908, 3,750,786.

In volume of numbers of pouches of mail received and dispatched there is an appreciable increase; during 1907 we received 17,054 pouches and 12,791 sacks; and dispatched to other offices 19,259 pouches and 12,791 sacks. During the year 1908, ending June 30 last, we received 19,335 pouches and 20,769 sacks and dispatched 21,996 pouches and 11,920 sacks. Owing to the limited

floor space in the mailing division, we are so badly cramped on days when steamers arrive with large mails from East and West points, as to make it difficult to handle it without occupying the sidewalks on Bethel street, to remedy which, until our new Federal building is erected and as a temporary accommodation, the use of a part of or all the area occupied by the Honolulu Hale, property of the Territory of Hawaii, would serve an excellent purpose.

Exhibit G, 1 and 2. Dead Letter Bureau.—This branch of our service deals with all dead letter matter originating in the Territory of Hawaii, the details being set out fully in Sheets G 1 and 2. During 1908 this division handled 32,446 pieces of dead letter mail, an increase of 1120 pieces over 1907.

Exhibit F. Mail Transportation.—This statement contains a list of the lines and cost of transportation. On June 30, 1908, there were in operation 27 Star Routes covering 551.57 miles at a cost of \$18,044.57 per annum; 18 steamboat routes covering 15,055.00 miles, costing \$84,700.63; 7 railroad routes covering 141.96 miles at an expense of \$5801.22; 21 mail messenger routes covering 90.17 miles, at a cost of \$4256.00. The estimated expenditures for non-contract vessels for transporting mails at pound rates is \$5000.00. Total cost of mail transportation \$117,802.42. In addition to the above service there are 22 gratuitous mail messenger routes, one star route and two steamboat routes.

Exhibit H. List of Postoffices and Postmasters.—By Counties: Hawaii 33, Oahu 20, Molokai 6, Lanai 1, Maui 19, Kauai 10; total, 89.

I take the opportunity of inviting your kind attention to the showing made particularly in Exhibits B and C, Money Order and Parcels Post Systems and to suggest that your association consider the matter by suitable resolutions or memorials to Congress at the coming session in December next of supporting the bills for an act to establish a Postal Savings Bank and Parcels Post System as recommended by the honorable postmaster general.

In conclusion I beg to inform you that the matter of expediting the receipt and distribution of mails arriving from San Francisco has been brought to the attention of the department by the assistant superintendent of mails and otherwise as to give promise of an improvement in the near future. However, it may not be inappropriate for your association to adopt and send resolutions supporting the improvements desired to the Honorable Postmaster General.

Respectfully,
JOSEPH G. PRATT,
Postmaster.

Report of Committee.

Honolulu, September 10, 1908.
Geo. W. Smith, Esq., President, Merchants' Association, Honolulu.

Dear Sir: Your committee have examined carefully the interesting and valuable data supplied by Mr. Joseph Pratt, Postmaster, Honolulu, covering the business transacted by the Honolulu postoffice in the various departments for the years 1905, 1906, 1907 and 1908. We are pleased to note, that the important matter of securing a more expeditious service to the public in the receipt and distribution of mails arriving from San Francisco, has been placed before the department by the assistant superintendent of mails.

The two most important items for consideration by the merchants' Association are the proposed Postal Savings bank, and Parcels Post systems, for which the honorable postmaster general intends introducing bills, in the forthcoming session of Congress, for an act to establish same. It is to these two measures that Mr. Joseph Pratt particularly invites the attention and support of the Merchants' Association.

Postal Savings Bank.—At the close of Exhibit B, Mr. Joseph Pratt in dealing with the establishment of Postal Savings banks in the United States expresses the belief that a very considerable portion of the money now being remitted to Japan through the Postal Money Order Department (amounting to \$1,144,049.96 in the past year) would be deposited in Postal Savings bank if same were established, and the money kept in circulation locally.

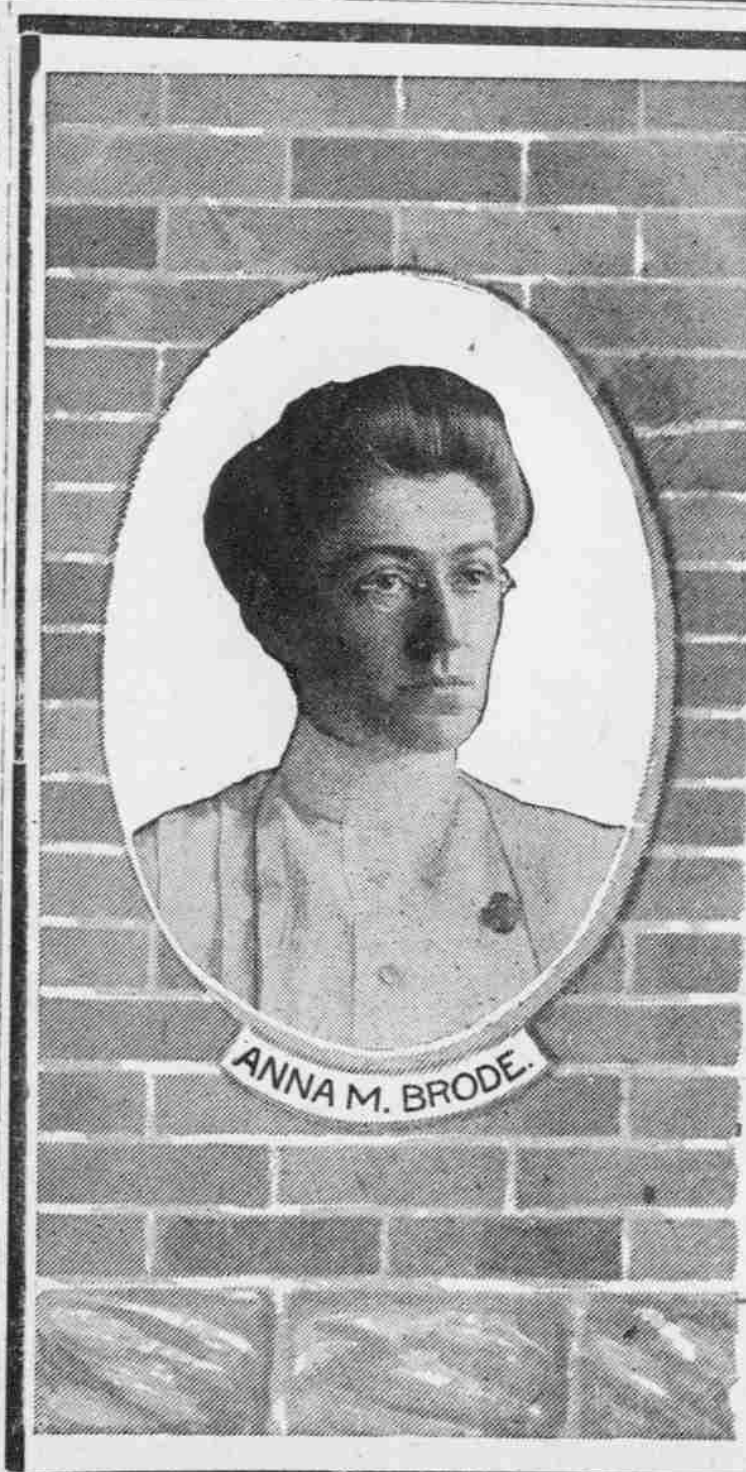
We are unable to follow Mr. Pratt in this belief or opinion, as after careful inquiry into the rates of interest paid in Japan by the Japanese Government Savings banks, and the rate of interest it will be possible for the United States Government Postal Savings banks to pay, if same were established, leaves a very wide margin in favor of Japan.

The Japanese in this Territory who are remitting their savings to their own country do so for many reasons, the principal of which are, we believe, first, the high rate of interest their money commands; second, to provide for, and assist relatives and friends in their native land; third, in depositing their earnings in Japan it is an expression of their loyalty to, and confidence in their country and its future.

We think the foregoing reasons are sufficient to prevent the Japanese giving any support of a substantial nature to United States Postal Savings banks if they were established.

We believe the local savings banks are doing an excellent work in the Territory; their deposits are large, and are invested in local securities, and their funds actually kept in circulation in the Territory of Hawaii. We understand that in the case of a Postal Savings bank their deposits could not possibly be kept in circulation in the Territory of Hawaii, but would be sent to one of the Federal depositories on the mainland. We believe that the savings bank institutions now established in Honolulu, Hilo, Kahului, Wailuku, Lahaina and Lihue provide ample opportunities for the care and safety of "small savings," and consider that the interest rates the various savings banks are paying will be found much more conducive to thrift among the people, than a Postal Savings bank paying a considerably lower rate of interest could possibly be.

For the foregoing reasons we strongly



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Members and visiting Nobles are cordially invited to attend a Ceremonial Session of Aloha Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., to be held Saturday, November 14, 1908, 1:30 o'clock p. m., at the K. of P. Hall, corner Fort and Beretania streets.

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